

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
Headquarters United States Air Force  
Washington 25, D. C.

3 December 1953

General Walter Bedell Smith  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 "E" Street, N.W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

The Air Force has underway as part of its effort to provide continuing broad guidance for research and development programs, a project which is expected to provide such guidance in the fields of intelligence and reconnaissance. This project includes study of military concepts, technological potentials, and operational evaluations, and is concerned broadly with essential air intelligence required, systems for producing finished air intelligence, and systems for collecting and reducing intelligence data. This project is one part of our overall development planning activity. These studies are performed on a continuing basis so that our overall research and development effort can be always ready to utilize the latest scientific achievements.

This study effort is being carried on under the Assistant for Development Planning in my office. Colonel Richard S. Leghorn has charge of the planning team, and I understand that a number of informal exchanges have taken place with members of CIA, particularly with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Such informal exchanges, while helpful for orientation purposes do not appear to constitute an adequate working relationship over a period of time.

We have, of course, common problems with the Central Intelligence Agency in many aspects of intelligence and reconnaissance. Consequently, I believe that CIA participation in this study on a continuing basis would be mutually beneficial. It would inform you of our trends and development plans as well as avail us of CIA experience and findings on pertinent matters. Furthermore, it would give us a more intimate working knowledge of CIA needs for national intelligence which might influence our own development programs, especially our vehicle programs. In this latter connection, I have in mind certain feasible air vehicle development programs now under consideration, which might very well have considerable impact on future national intelligence capabilities.

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General Walter Bedell Smith

If the establishment of a more definite relationship between CIA and our intelligence development planning activity appears to you to be desirable, I might suggest that a possible mechanism would be the appointment of an appropriate CIA liaison officer to monitor the working relationships between our study effort and the CIA.

After you have had an opportunity to consider this subject, I would be most grateful for your ideas as to the specific steps that might be taken.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ L. C. Craigie

L. C. CRAIGIE  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Deputy Chief of Staff,  
Development

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